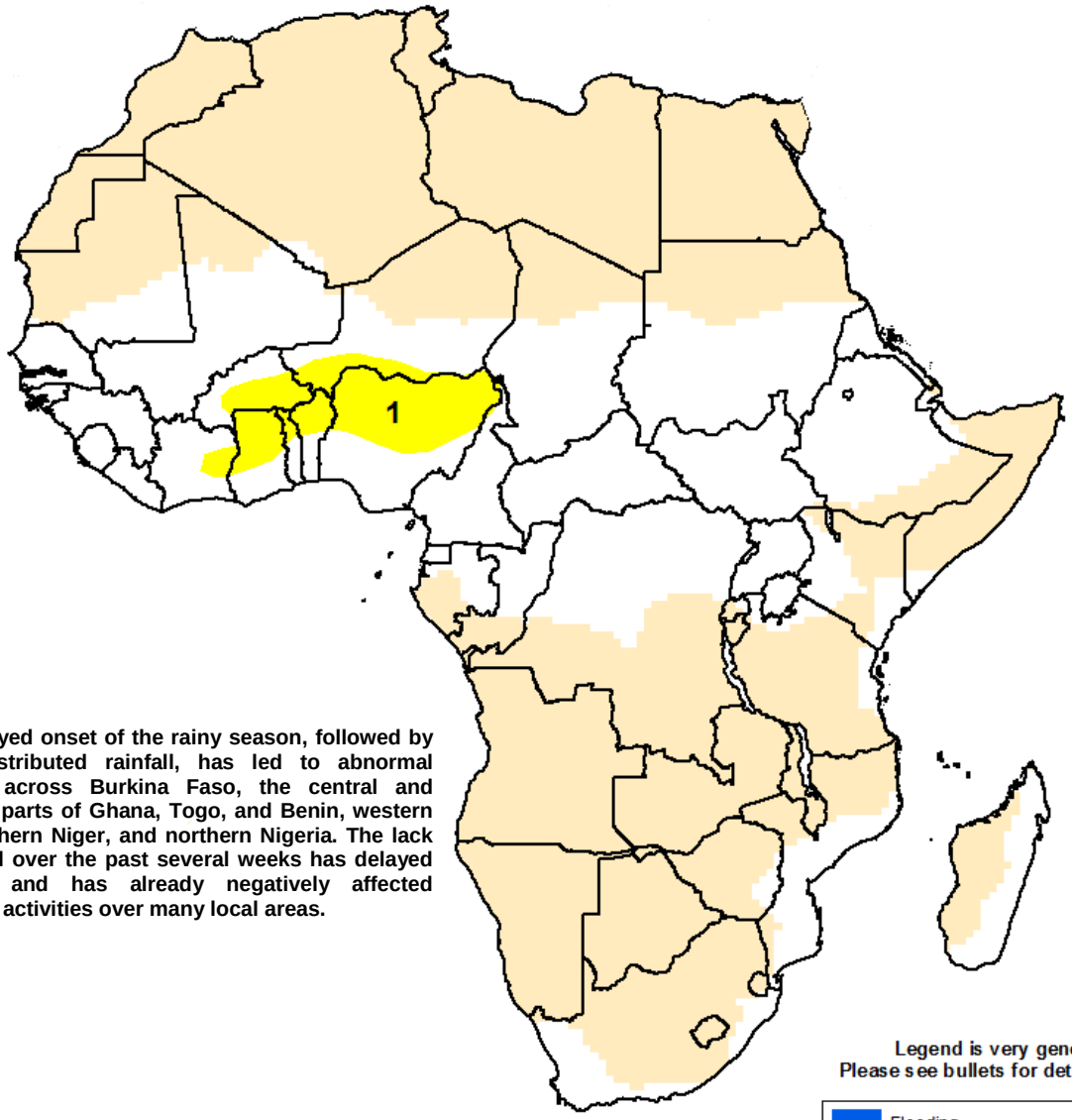
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
July 9 – 15, 2015

- **Rains increase for Nigeria and far Western Africa during the past week.**
- **Local parts of southeast Sudan and northwest Ethiopia exhibit increasing rainfall deficits in recent weeks.**



1) A delayed onset of the rainy season, followed by poorly-distributed rainfall, has led to abnormal dryness across Burkina Faso, the central and northern parts of Ghana, Togo, and Benin, western and southern Niger, and northern Nigeria. The lack of rainfall over the past several weeks has delayed planting and has already negatively affected cropping activities over many local areas.

Long-term rainfall deficits persist across West Africa.

During the past week, widely distributed rainfall was observed throughout West Africa. The northward movement of the Inter-tropical front (ITF) brought light to locally moderate rainfall as far north as central Mali. The heaviest rain fell over Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, southern Mali, and Sierra Leone (**Figure 1**). Heavier rains were also received in southern and eastern areas of Nigeria. Conversely, light rains were observed elsewhere, especially, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Burkina Faso. This pattern resulted in below average rainfall compared to climatology for many in the central and southern portions of the western Africa region.

An analysis of rainfall anomalies since May 1st indicates widespread moisture deficits, now becoming more pronounced across Ghana, Togo and Benin. The effects of this prolonged and worsening dryness is indicated in the latest NDVI anomalies (**Figure 2**). The worst vegetation conditions are now evident across northern Nigeria, southwestern Niger, Burkina Faso and the northern halves of Ghana, Togo, and Benin. Another region of declining conditions can be seen in far western portions of the region. Western parts of Mali into Senegal and The Gambia indicate poor conditions. This is associated with a delayed onset of rainfall in this region. It is still early in the season for real concern with regards to planting there. A delayed onset to the rainfall season and poorly distributed rains has already negatively impacted agricultural and pastoral activities over many local areas, including southern Niger.

Widespread moderate to heavy rain is expected across much of the western half of the region which should yield above normal totals for the outlook period. The rest of the region is expected to receive near average conditions with seasonable relaxing of rainfall for coastal regions.

Above-average rains observed in Southern Sudan and South Sudan.

Since the beginning of June, adequate rainfall has been observed over almost all of the Greater Horn of Africa. After A week of enhanced rainfall, moisture surpluses in excess of 100 mm were recorded from southern Sudan to Western South Sudan. Similar surpluses are also evident in Western Ethiopia. One emerging area of concern is eastern Sudan and extreme northwestern Ethiopia. Over a small area deficits upwards of 50mm are observed (**Figure 3**). The deficits can be attributed to a dry spell during early June, which was followed by below-normal rain during the past 2 weeks. Dry conditions on the ground in this region are also apparent from the NDVI anomalies. During the past week, eastern South Sudan and southern Ethiopia saw a considerable decrease in rainfall. During the next week, moderate to heavy rain is forecast over western Ethiopia but lesser amounts toward the central portion of the country. Light to moderate rains are likely for Sudan and South Sudan. Moderate rains are also possible along coastal areas of eastern Kenya and throughout southern Somalia. The driest portions of eastern Sudan are unlikely to see any substantial rainfall during the upcoming week to improve upon moisture deficits.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: June 28 – July 04, 2015

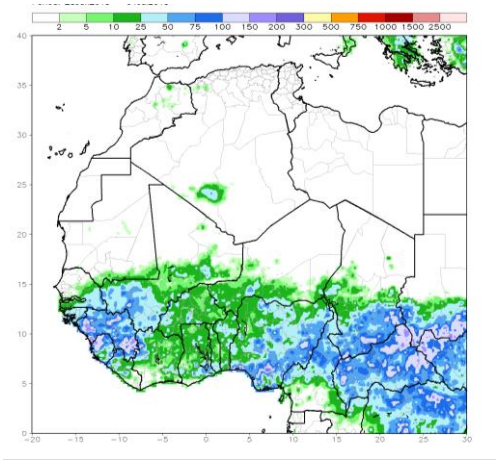


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Normalized Differential Vegetation Index 10-day Anomaly
Valid: June 21 – June 30, 2015

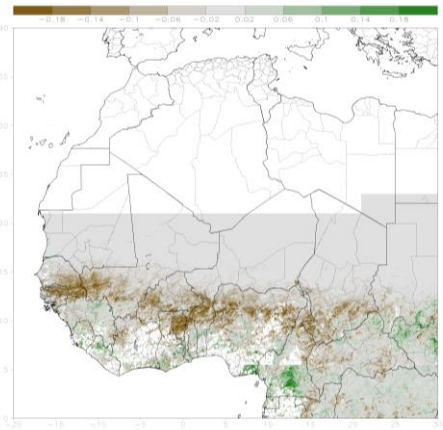


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: June 06 – July 05, 2015

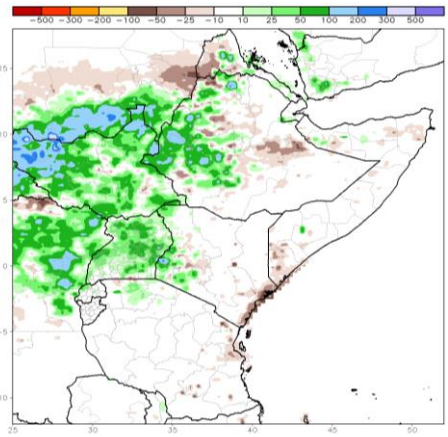


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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